

## Pentagon leaders get in-depth look at AFMC

*by Tech. Sgt. Carl Norman, AFMC Public Affairs*

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio (AFMCNS) – Thirteen Air Force Board members took a whirlwind tour of five Air Force Materiel Command bases Jan. 16-20 to better understand the command's diverse mission.

Board members, representing Air Force budgeting, programming and planning fields, traveled more than 3,200 miles in their four-day excursion to get a more in-depth look at a cross section of AFMC.

"Having the board members understand what we do and how we use Air Force resources to accomplish our mission, is a great value," said Col. Dave Price, AFMC's plans and programs deputy director. "This tour allowed us to highlight our mission, people and facilities; and educate Pentagon leaders on the wide variety of things this command does. It will now allow them to go back to Washington and make better, more informed decisions—and that's good for the Air Force."

The Air Force Board members make recommendations to the Secretary of the Air Force, Air Force chief of staff and other senior leaders on current and future Air Force plans, programs and budgetary systems, Price said. To evaluate the effectiveness and reach of its near- and long-term decisions and recommendations, the board, by invitation, visits one or two major Air Force commands each year to tour facilities and generally look at day-to-day operations.

"There are two reasons we visit major commands," said Brig. Gen. Duncan McNabb, Air Force Board chair. "It allows us to see how we are doing in balancing the Air Force program and this time it allowed us to learn about AFMC so we can do a better job of balancing in the future. But we also learn about issues that may need a funding strategy or have policy implications that need to be worked at the Air Force level."

In their AFMC visit, Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., and the Air Force Flight Test Center, was the board members' first stop. Follow-on stops at the depot at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., wind tunnels at Arnold Air Force Base, Tenn., test ranges at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., and Aeronautical Systems Center and Air Force Research Laboratory tours here rounded out the visit. Before returning to the Pentagon, board members out-briefed Gen. Lester Lyles, AFMC commander.

Covering the breadth of the AFMC mission, emphasizing how that mission supports the warfighter, showing how AFMC people use available resources, highlighting the infrastructure condition and the need for workforce shaping were main points made, said Price.

Board members were impressed with what they saw and applauded the command's efforts, according to McNabb.

"I was impressed with AFMC's scope and its people's dedication across the board," said McNabb. "The magnitude of challenges and the synergy needed to make the entire system work is very impressive, so is the innovative way the people work together and partner." @